

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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**PLYMOUTH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY TIMOTHY J. CRUZ'S  
STATEMENT ON THE BRIDGEWATER STATE HOSPITAL  
INDICTMENTS**

“My office performed two exhaustive investigations into Mr. Messier’s death, first in 2010 and again in Spring 2014. As part of that investigation, dozens of witness interviews were reviewed. Video surveillance recordings, and hundreds of pages of investigative reports, psychiatric records, medical records and training records pertaining to both Mr. Messier and the correction officers, were reviewed by veteran prosecutors assigned to my office. After those reviews, we reached the conclusion that there was insufficient evidence to proceed on criminal charges. We considered all of this evidence, in conjunction with the expert opinion from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on the critical element of cause of death.”

“In 2014, I also referred the Messier investigation to the Essex County District Attorney’s Office, to seek a second, independent review of the evidence, and a second, independent opinion regarding the sufficiency of the evidence to proceed on any criminal charges related to the death of Mr. Messier. A veteran prosecutor from Essex County examined the evidence and advised that their independent review of the evidence had also resulted in the conclusion that there was insufficient evidence to proceed on criminal charges.”

“I remain confident in the hard work my office did to arrive at a fair and just outcome in the investigation of the tragic death of Joshua Messier. I also respect the efforts and the authority of the Inquest Judge and Special Prosecutor Murphy to reach a different conclusion. We have always worked to the best of our ability to see that justice prevails within the criminal justice system, and that remains true now. My office will stand ready to offer our assistance in moving forward with this complex case.”

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